

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY,

KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

Published:

- with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/IB 00/05850

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H05B41/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 144 171 A (DEURLOO OSCAR ET AL) 7 November 2000 (2000-11-07) cited in the application column 3, line 46 -column 6, line 28; figures 1-7	1-3,7,8
Y	US 4 952 819 A (HERRMANN DIETER) 28 August 1990 (1990-08-28) column 2, line 24 -column 3, line 6; figure	1-3,7,8
A	EP 1 043 917 A (THOMAS & BETTS INT) 11 October 2000 (2000-10-11) abstract; figures 1-4	1,7
A	US 6 414 446 B2 (DEURLOO OSCAR JAN ET AL) 2 July 2002 (2002-07-02)	

-/--

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/03/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Albertsson, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Classification No.

PCT/IB 98/05850

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 868 115 A (PATRA PATENT TREUHAND) 30 September 1998 (1998-09-30) -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/IB 00/05850

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6144171	A	07-11-2000	CN 1304628 T WO 0069224 A1 EP 1095540 A1 JP 2002544653 T	18-07-2001 16-11-2000 02-05-2001 24-12-2002
US 4952819	A	28-08-1990	DE 3712784 A1 DE 3872568 D1 EP 0287166 A2 JP 63263916 A	03-11-1988 13-08-1992 19-10-1988 31-10-1988
EP 1043917	A	11-10-2000	US 6452340 B1 BR 0009615 A CA 2304911 A1 EP 1043917 A2	17-09-2002 19-02-2002 09-10-2000 11-10-2000
US 6414446	B2	07-02-2002	CN 1364399 T WO 0169985 A1 EP 1192840 A1 JP 2003526886 T TW 498704 B US 2002014863 A1	14-08-2002 20-09-2001 03-04-2002 09-09-2003 11-08-2002 07-02-2002
EP 0868115	A	30-09-1998	DE 19712258 A1 CA 2232850 A1 DE 59809312 D1 EP 0868115 A2 JP 10275687 A US 6008591 A	01-10-1998 24-09-1998 25-09-2003 30-09-1998 13-10-1998 28-12-1999